

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An agent comprising an HVJ (hemagglutinating virus of Japan-(HVJ)-envelope vector, wherein the HVJ-envelope vector comprises:

an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter, which has been ~~protein~~ enclosed within an HVJ-envelope, wherein the HVJ-envelope vector has a diameter less than that of an HVJ-liposome; and
is free of liposome.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The agent of claim 1, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

4 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction comprising:

administering an agent comprising an HVJ (hemagglutinating virus of Japan)-envelope vector by direct injection into the subarachnoid space of a subject ~~prior to the occurrence of said cerebral infarction~~, wherein said HVJ-envelope vector comprises:

an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter, which has been ~~protein~~ enclosed within an HVJ-envelope, wherein the HVJ-envelope vector has a diameter less than that of an HVJ-liposome; and
~~is free of liposome;~~

wherein said method results in a reduction of the infarcted area.

7 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

13. (Currently Amended) The agent of claim 1, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor ~~protein~~ is a human hepatocyte growth factor ~~protein~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor ~~protein~~ is a human hepatocyte growth factor ~~protein~~.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein direct injection into the subarachnoid space comprises direct injection into a cisternal space.

16. (New) The agent of claim 1, wherein the HVJ-envelope vector is prepared by mixing an inactivated HVJ with the isolated nucleic acid encoding hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter in the presence of a surfactant.

17. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the HVJ-envelope vector is prepared by mixing an inactivated HVJ with the isolated nucleic acid encoding hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter in the presence of a surfactant.